



Dear Families

February 2019

It's February and there's so much to celebrate! We'll learn about Groundhog Day and have fun with some shadow play. Chinese New Year begins Feb 5th. It's *The Year of the Pig*. Curious George's birthday is a fun time to learn about this curious little monkey and the mischief he gets into because of his curiosity. Bridging the middle of February are Valentine's Day, Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays and President's Day. As we come to each special day, your child may wear theme-related clothes or bring items related to our work at school. Be sure items are labeled with his/her name, especially if they are likely to be taken off or set down during the day. Watch the calendar for Chapel Time, Pajama Day and Lunch Bunch, as well. You and your child don't want to miss a thing, during the month ahead!

February holidays call for special shapes, colors, and letters. We'll talk about how to say "I love you" with our hands (using American Sign Language, as well as shaping our fingers into a heart shape). We'll emphasize everything red, pink, purple and white. We'll talk about the letters V, Z, and F. We'll try learning the Pledge of Allegiance as we learn about the US flag. Chinese New Year lasts for 15 days. We'll use Chinese as our language of the month. 1, 2, 3 ...become "yee, uhr, sahn". It's hard for me to print the Chinese characters for these words here, but they look like varying lengths of horizontal lines stacked on top of each other.

In between all of these fun February events **we will continue to assess each child on basic skills as we prepare for parent-teacher conferences in March.** Even though the younger children have another year before kindergarten, we want to learn what skills need more attention in the meantime. You can help at home by reinforcing all those academic and motor skills we talked about last fall, in addition to teaching your child how to say your address, phone number and his/her full name.

Valentine's Day is the perfect time for another party! Volunteers are already planning the events. On **Wednesday Feb 13 and Thursday Feb 14**, your child may bring Valentine cards for everyone in the class. ***Bringing Valentine cards for classmates is optional.*** (There are 17 children in the Wednesday class and 17 children in the Thursday class). While you or your child should sign each card to say who it's *from*, ***please do not label the envelope*** with the names of classmates. Putting "My Friend" on the envelope is fine. We will be emphasizing the math skill of one-to-one correspondence as we distribute the cards (putting one card into each decorated Valentine bag). Your child's Valentine bag will be sealed and sent home for you to read all the cards, together. What a lovely way to spend the afternoon or evening with your little sweetheart!

Have you returned your Registration Materials for next year? If your child will be returning to our program next year, we want to have a place reserved for your family, but need those forms in our files in order to do so. New families are contacting us and making their plans for next year, so send your child's registration forms back as soon as possible. Thanks for sharing your child(ren) with us and for referring others to our program!

It may be cold outside, but **it's warm and friendly inside the Preschool Family Room** (just inside Door E). In a couple weeks, our Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule will be posted on the Family Room door. It's a great place to socialize, learn more about your child's day at Preschool, or to simply relax! Be sure to share this information with grandparents and others who care for your child; they can come inside, too. Just remember to park on the same side of the parking lot as the school building so no one has to cross between cars at dismissal. Thanks!

Remember to check your email and/or our Facebook page, once in a while. Photos are a fun way for us to share your child's Preschool day with you.

For the Love of Children,
Stephanie R. Gustafson

